

High-stakes drag racing roars into Sakhir

Bahrain Drag Racing Championship returns to BIC strip for plenty of high-intensity battles | P16

WORLD 8 Israel demolishes residential building in east Jerusalem

THE DAILY tribune

Five-wicket Duffy prompts West Indies collapse as New Zealand win series 2-0

Bahrain Islamic Bank announces collaboration with Mastercard

New law on OIC anti-corruption cooperation

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa ratified and issued Law (43) of 2025 approving the Makkah Al Mukarramah Convention of the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Cooperation, following its approval by the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives.

The Kingdom of Bahrain signed the Makkah Convention on November 27, 2024.

The Prime Minister and ministers, each within their capacity, shall implement the provisions of this law, which shall come into effect on the day following its publication in the Official Gazette.

MP discharged from hospital after recovery

TDT | Manama

MP Mohammed Hussein Janahi has announced his discharge from the hospital following his recovery.

Sharing the news on his official Instagram account, Janahi wrote: "And when I am ill, it is He who heals me."

He added that he would be receiving friends and visitors to exchange greetings and check on his health, beginning yesterday at 7pm at his office on Exhibition Street in Hoora.

He also expressed his gratitude to those who supported him during his illness, saying: "I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who inquired and prayed during the treatment period, asking God to grant everyone continued health and wellness."

Russia 'support'

AFP | Venezuela

Russia yesterday expressed "full support" for Venezuela as the South American country confronts a blockade of sanctioned oil tankers by US forces deployed in the Caribbean.

The UN Security Council will meet today to discuss the mounting crisis between Caracas and the US.

HM King backs Arab League unity initiatives



HM the King receives Ahmed Aboul Gheit

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa emphasised Bahrain's support for all efforts undertaken by the Arab League.

He highlighted the League's effective role in advancing joint Arab action and in preserving

unity and a common position among the nations.

HM the King made the remarks as he received Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the Arab League, during his visit to the Kingdom to attend the seventh annual forum of the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat).

HM King Hamad welcomed Aboul Gheit and his participation in the forum, wishing him and all participants success in helping to expand Arab research cooperation and strengthen joint Arab action.

His Majesty expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Arab League Secretary General to enhance cooperation and solidarity among Arab states, defend the nation's causes, and safeguard its achievements as well as the security and stability of its peoples. Aboul Gheit expressed his gratitude to HM

the King for Bahrain's continued support for the Arab League and its role in serving Arab causes and enhancing joint Arab action. He commended the Kingdom's firm stance in supporting the nation's causes and defending its interests under His Majesty's leadership.

Home priority

HRH Prince Salman orders swift delivery of 7,000 housing services for Bahraini citizens



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting

Initiative supports HM King Hamad's vision to deliver 50,000 new units

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has directed the swift delivery of 7,000 housing services for Bahraini citizens.

It is in line with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's directives to accelerate the delivery of 50,000 new housing units.

The announcement coincides with Bahrain's National Days, the 26th anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's accession to the throne, and other accompanying national celebrations.

HRH Prince Salman, who chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting at Gudaibiya Palace yesterday, tasked the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning with taking the necessary executive measures to implement this initiative, reflecting



HRH Prince Salman tasked the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning with taking the necessary executive measures to implement this national housing strategy.

the government's commitment to meeting citizens' housing needs in a timely and efficient manner.

Royal address

During the meeting, the Cabinet commended the royal address delivered by HM the King on the occasion of the National Days, highlighting the strong bond between the monarchy and the people, and expressing gratitude for congratulatory messages from Bahraini citizens



and other countries.

The Cabinet also emphasised the strength of Bahrain's relations with the United Arab Emirates, noting HM King Hamad's directive to name Al Areen Wildlife Park after His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and the reciprocal gesture to name a park in Abu Dhabi after His Majesty the King.

The celebrations held by the UAE in honour of Bahrain's National Days were also acknowl-

edged.

In addition, the Cabinet noted the inauguration of the Manama Municipality Building by His Royal Highness following its renovation.

The building was originally inaugurated in 1962 by the late HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

The Cabinet reiterated its commitment to enhancing social services and support programmes for citizens, including electricity and water assistance

for first-time homeowners.

It also highlighted initiatives for low- and middle-income households aimed at improving living standards and expanding employment opportunities.

Punlic funds

The Cabinet stressed the importance of safeguarding public funds, ensuring social support reaches those most in need, and promoting responsible, efficient spending.

During the session, the Cabinet approved several ministerial proposals and resolutions.

These included a draft resolution on civil aviation and air departure services aimed at improving passenger registration procedures, and the restructuring of several government agencies to enhance performance and efficiency. The Cabinet also approved a draft resolution concerning the Occupational Safety and Health Council, as well as Bahrain's accession to Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), 1973.

In addition, reports submitted by the Education and Training Quality Authority were reviewed and approved.

Enduring alliance

HRH Prince Salman highlights historic Bahrain-Kuwait partnership and shared collaboration

● Keen to expand opportunities across media, culture and youth sectors

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, affirmed that Bahrain-Kuwait relations are built on strong collaboration across key sectors and shared interests.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he met yesterday with His Excellency Abdulrahman Badah Al-Mutairi, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs of Kuwait, at Gudaibiya Palace.

“Bahrain and Kuwait share a longstanding partnership that continues to grow through the steadfast efforts of our leadership,” said HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, highlighting the historic ties between the two countries.

“It is vital that we continue



HRH Prince Salman with H.E. Abdulrahman Badah Al-Mutairi

to bolster joint cooperation to expand opportunities across media, cultural, and youth sectors, strengthening the bonds that unite our countries.”

During the meeting, H.E. Al-Mutairi conveyed the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait; His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Crown Prince of Kuwait; and His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait, expressing their wishes for continued progress and prosperity for Bahrain.

“Bahrain and Kuwait share a longstanding partnership that continues to grow through the steadfast efforts of our leadership.”

– HRH PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

His Royal Highness conveyed his greetings to the Kuwaiti leadership.

The discussion underscored the mutual commitment to en-

hancing collaboration across multiple sectors, reflecting the strong bilateral ties that have historically underpinned Bahrain-Kuwait relations.

H.E. Al-Mutairi praised HRH Prince Salman’s efforts in reinforcing these ties and expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality extended during his visit.

The meeting was attended by H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, alongside several senior officials, highlighting the high-level engagement and continued strategic dialogue between the two nations.

Support for productive families

TDT | Manama

Her Excellency Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, Chief Executive Officer of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), has commended the Family Microfinance House’s role in supporting productive families and micro-entrepreneurs with limited income.

She highlighted FMH’s contribution to improving living conditions through Sharia-compliant financing.

H.E. Mofeez was speaking as she received Dr. Mustafa Al Sayed, FMH Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Adel Abdulmalik, Chief Executive Officer and Board Member.

Dr. Al Sayed commended the developmental initiatives led by His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister of the Prime Minister’s Court and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund.

Bahrain, UAE keen to strengthen ties



H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani receives Dr. Jamal Sanad Al Suwaidi

TDT | Manama

His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, highlighted the strong relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

He emphasised the shared commitment to further development of these ties under the guidance of their leaderships.

H.E. Dr. Al Zayani was

speaking as he received Dr. Jamal Sanad Al Suwaidi, Vice president of the Board of Trustees of the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Think Tanks and Cultural Centers Alliance.

Dr. Al Suwaidi presented H.E. Dr. Al Zayani with a copy of his new book titled “The Artificial Womb: A World Beyond Human Reproduction”.

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TRA announces launch of Satellite Direct-to-Device services in Bahrain

TDT | Manama

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has announced the launch of Satellite Direct-to-Device (D2D) services in the Kingdom of Bahrain, marking a significant milestone in the country’s telecommunications landscape.

This initiative represents a major step in reinforcing Bahrain’s position as the first country in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to implement Satellite Direct-to-Device services, further strengthening its status as one of the most advanced and best-connected nations globally.

Report

The launch of these services follows the completion and publication of the related consultation report, which forms a key pillar of the TRA’s

broadier strategy to position Bahrain as a global leader in connectivity and digital innovation.

Through this initiative, the Kingdom becomes the first in the region to authorize the use of innovative technology that enables standard mobile phones to connect directly to satellites in areas beyond terrestrial network coverage, including maritime zones.

By introducing Satellite Direct-to-Device services, the TRA aims to ensure that essential communication services remain accessible at all times, enhancing safety, resilience, and connectivity for citizens, residents, and visitors alike.

Advancement

Commenting on the launch, Philip Marnick, General Director of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, said: “Satellite Direct-to-De-

vice services represent a significant advancement in Bahrain’s telecommunications ecosystem. By being the first country in the GCC to authorize this technology, we are reinforcing Bahrain’s position as a leader in digital connectivity and innovation.

This initiative ensures that people remain connected even beyond the reach of terrestrial networks, supporting safety, economic activity, and national resilience, while reflecting our continued commitment to providing world-class telecommunications services.”

The introduction of Satellite Direct-to-Device services underscores the TRA’s ongoing efforts to enhance nationwide connectivity, support emerging technologies, and ensure that Bahrain’s telecommunications framework remains future-ready and aligned with international best practices.

Bahrain Police parade

In celebration of the Kingdom of Bahrain’s National Days and the Accession Anniversary of His Majesty the King, the Ministry of Interior organised a Bahrain Police parade at the Heritage Village in the Southern Governorate, attended by His Highness Southern Governor, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa. The event drew a large turnout of citizens, residents and visitors. It featured a distinguished Bahrain Police parade showcasing high levels of discipline, efficiency and readiness. The Police Band also performed national pieces reflecting Bahrain’s authentic identity and the values of loyalty and national belonging.

Ministry to process 7,000 housing services to citizens

● In line with royal directives

TDT | Manama

Housing and Urban Planning Minister, Her Excellency Amna bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi, has announced the start of implementation procedures to deliver housing services to citizens.

The planned services include allocating housing finance and handing over a number of ownership-service projects in hous-

ing cities.

This is in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to accelerate the delivery of 50,000 new housing units, and in accordance with the instructions of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to begin providing 7,000 housing services,

The announcement coincided with the Kingdom of Bahrain's National Days, the 26th anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne, and the accompanying national events.



H.E. Al Rumaihi expressed gratitude to HM the King and to HRH Prince Salman for the leadership's continued support

“Bahrain is committed to providing social housing services in line with the housing targets set out in the Government Plan 2023-2026.”

– H.E. AMNA BINT AHMED AL RUMAIHI for the social housing sector.

She said Bahrain is committed to providing social housing services in line with the housing

targets set out in the Government Plan 2023-2026.

On implementation, she said the ministry has begun coordinating with financing bodies and participating banks to disburse funding to beneficiaries.

The Minister highlighted that technical and engineering teams have also started identifying completed projects and those at advanced stages, in preparation for handover under ownership services.

She noted that lists of beneficiaries are being finalised and will be contacted in phases to complete procedures under ap-

proved mechanisms.

H.E. Al Rumaihi added that the plan to provide 7,000 housing services includes a comprehensive package of financing and housing options, offering citizens greater choice and flexibility to meet their needs.

She emphasised that the ministry is working to ensure faster delivery of suitable housing through prompt services tailored to Bahraini families, and will continue to mobilise all efforts in the coming phase to accelerate delivery and achieve the set goals.

Eight illegal workers detained and 87 deported

● LMRA conducts 255 inspection campaigns, visits

TDT | Manama

Eight violating and irregular workers were detained following 255 inspection campaigns and visits carried out between December 14 and 20, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) announced.

The inspection campaigns and visits also resulted in monitoring several violations related to the provisions of a number of regulating laws, especially the LMRA and the Residency Laws in the Kingdom of Bahrain, noting that legal measures were taken regarding the observed violations.

The Authority pointed out that 242 inspection visits were carried out on various shops in all governorates, in addition to 13 joint inspection campaigns, 8 campaigns in the Capital Governorate, 2 campaigns in the Northern Governorate and 3 campaigns in the Southern Governorate.

The government entities that participated in the campaign are the Ministry of Interior, represented by the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA), the Governorate's respective Police Directorate, and the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Science.

The Authority affirmed the continuation of joint coordination with government agencies to intensify inspection campaigns in all governorates of the Kingdom, and to address any violations or practices that negatively affect the stability and competitiveness of the labour market or harm economic and social security of the Kingdom.

The LMRA renewed its call on all members of society to support the efforts of government agencies in addressing illegal labour practices, by reporting violations via the electronic form on the authority's website www.lmra.gov.bh

Job scam alert

Pakistani loses PKR 400,000 over fake Bahrain employment promise

● Concern grows, warning out over unlicensed online recruitment agencies

● Authorities urge caution when applying for overseas work

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TDT | Manama

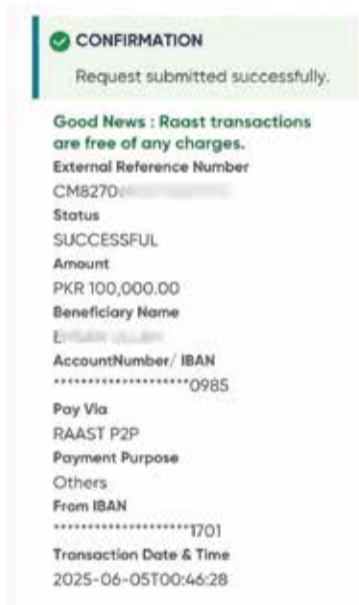
A Pakistani national, who was previously a resident of Bahrain and is now in Pakistan, has reportedly lost around PKR 400,000 (approximately BD538) after falling victim to a job placement scam that promised employment opportunities in the Kingdom.

The victim explained that the ordeal began six to seven months ago when he was approached by a man on social media claiming to assist with overseas job placements in the food packing industry in Bahrain.

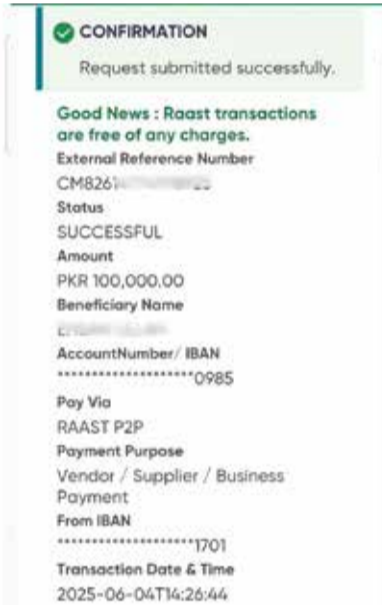
Initially, the man offered to cover expenses such as ticketing after the victim's medical examination for employment was rejected.

“He assured me that there would be no advance payments, and that fees would only be requested once the visa process was approved,” the victim said.

Trusting him, the victim also facilitated documents for a friend's brother who was interested in a similar job oppor-



Victim's payment transactions with the scammer



The General Directorate of Anti-Corruption & Economic & Electronic Security highlights that scammers rarely ask for money upfront; instead, they first seek to gain your trust.

troduced friends to the scheme. Authorities note that

cross-border scams like these are challenging to investigate but emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity immediately.

The victim has shared all communication records with a local media outlet to raise awareness and prevent similar incidents from affecting others.

“This experience has been humiliating and financially damaging,” the victim said. “I hope my story serves as a warning to others seeking job opportunities abroad, to thoroughly verify agencies and contacts before making any payments.”

The case underscores the importance of using verified, registered agencies when seeking employment overseas.

Woman lured to Bahrain, forced into prostitution

● Court ruling is set for February

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has set 10 February to rule in the case of two defendants accused of conning a 25-year-old Asian woman into coming to Bahrain on the promise of work at a women's salon, then forcing her into prostitution.

Prosecutors allege the pair brought the woman from her home country, housed her, and moved her between several flats and nightclubs, using threats, force and trickery to exploit her for profit.

They are also accused of unlawfully depriving her of her liberty, taking a share of what she earned through prostitution, and withholding her passport after it was handed to them for safekeeping, harming the rightful owner.

The charge sheet says the woman was pressured to repay an alleged debt in return for her freedom, and was made to engage in prostitution through intimidation and deceit.

Prosecutors also allege the defendants relied, in part, on the money she made from prostitution.

In court, defence lawyer Mohammed Al Marzooq asked for his client to be acquitted, arguing the account was not plausible, that the complainant's statements did not match, and that the enquiries were not sound.

He asked the court to order the retrieval of CCTV footage tracking the woman's movements in the five days before she filed her complaint, and sought to question the investigations officer.

Al Marzooq told the court the case file contained no confession by either defendant.

The complainant said she agreed to travel after being told she would work in a women's salon, as she did in her home country, and that she would earn good money.

She said that once she arrived with the defendants, she was held in a hotel.

Reaffirming housing as ‘national priority’

TDT | Manama

MP Ahmed Al-Salloum commended the directive of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to provide 7,000 new housing services.

Chairman of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the Council of Representatives, MP Al-Salloum emphasised that the order reflects a proactive governmental approach focused on addressing citizens' needs and accelerating the implemen-

tation of housing programs.

He noted that this initiative aligns with the visionary leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, which has made housing a national priority as a key pillar of social stability and improved quality of life for citizens.

MP Al-Salloum highlighted that delivering these housing services, as part of the broader plan to reach 50,000 housing units, represents a practical step toward reducing waiting periods, strengthening public confidence in government programs,



MP Ahmed Al-Salloum

and supporting comprehensive urban and economic development.

The lawmaker also praised

the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning for its effective role in implementing HRH Prince Salman's directives, stressing the legislative authority's support for all efforts aimed at meeting citizens' housing aspirations.

He said the timing of these government directives, coinciding with the Kingdom's national celebrations, underscores the leadership's commitment to prioritising the welfare of Bahrainis while ensuring efficient progress in the country's development agenda.

Housing misuse

Worker group accommodation ban bill sets BD5,000 fines and one-week eviction rule

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Electricity could be cut and accounts suspended under a draft law referred to Parliament's Public Utilities and Environment Committee.

The law targets shared worker accommodation in family residential areas.

It sets fines of up to BD5,000 and requires tenants to clear the property within one week of the court's judgment.

The proposal, submitted by MP Mohammed Al Rifai and referred by Parliament Speaker Ahmed Al Musallam, would ban the use or letting of any home, building, or part of a building in family-designated housing areas for what it calls worker group housing.

It defines those worker group arrangements as any shared home where more than five workers live, or any residential property whose units are used as group quarters in a way that clashes with areas intended for families.

An exception would apply



Image used for illustrative purposes only

to worker housing that is purpose-built and licensed by the competent bodies, on condition it sits outside family-designated housing zones.

The draft also extends beyond housing. It would bar service and trade work in residential areas where it affects the residential character, troubles residents, or blocks roads and walkways with tools, kit, vehicles, or similar.

Examples named include vehicle repair workshops, welding, carpentry and metalwork, along

with similar activities.

Ban

It would also ban the use of pavements, open spaces, and squares inside housing areas, or on their edges, for parking trucks, tractors, machinery, equipment, or other vehicles seen as unfit for a residential setting.

Responsibility for follow-up and enforcement would sit with the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs, working with the municipalities. The draft would al-



“The aim is to protect family residential neighbourhoods from being used for worker group housing and for unregulated activities that harm public order, health and safety.”

— MP MOHAMMED AL RIFAI

low site visits and checks to confirm compliance with licences, rules and required conditions.

It would also give the ministry and municipalities the power to issue administrative notices to owners, tenants and occupi-

ers, ordering them to remove the cause of a breach within a timeframe set by the competent body.

In cases set by the draft and its implementing rules, they could also issue decisions for temporary or permanent closure, halt an activity, or order steps to remove the breach.

The proposal allows administrative steps to carry out those decisions, including asking security bodies to remove the breach where needed.

Offenders could be charged the cost of removal or correction.

The draft also provides for the drawing up of administrative records, noting and documenting breaches, and sending cases to the relevant bodies to complete the legal process, alongside the issuing of technical and administrative instructions to help apply the law.

It states that any contracts or transactions made in breach of the housing ban would have no legal effect, and would not stop the municipality from taking the steps needed to end the breach.

Medical and dental practice law amendments under review

● Shura committee studies proposal

TDT | Manama

The Services Committee of the Shura Council continued deliberations on the proposed amendments to certain provisions of Decree Law No. (7) of 1989 concerning the practice of human medicine and dentistry.

The proposed amendments, submitted by Their Excellencies Lina Habib Qasim, Dr. Jihad Abdullah Al-Fadhel, Dalal Jassim Al-Zayed, Dr. Jamila Mohammed Redha Al-Salman, and Dr. Ahmed Salem Al-Arayedh, aim to modernise the legal framework governing abortion cases.

The revisions seek to align the law with Islamic Sharia, contemporary medical practices, and recent scientific and technological advances in the early diagnosis of fetal diseases and malformations.

Legislation

Officials noted that the current legislation is no longer sufficient to address emerging medical scenarios encountered by doctors and pregnant women.

During the session, the committee - chaired by Dr. Jamila Mohammed Redha Al Salman - examined the proposed provisions allowing abortion in cases where the fetus is determined to be nonviable, provided this is supported by medical reports validated by a specialized committee.

The measure is intended to alleviate suffering and prevent childbirth under conditions that could cause significant physical or psychological harm to the family.

The committee also reviewed the principles underlying the draft law, emphasizing the strict controls and procedures designed to ensure that permissible abortions are limited to clearly defined cases.

These safeguards are intended to prevent misuse and guarantee that the procedure is only carried out when medically necessary, as documented and approved by competent authorities.

Kuwaiti Minister visits Souq Al Baraha

TDT | Manama

Her Excellency Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi, Minister of Tourism, and H.E. Dr. Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Noaimi, Minister of Information, accompanied H.E. Abdulrahman Baddah Al Mutairi, Kuwait's Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, on a visit to Souq Al Baraha in Diyar Al Muharraq.

H.E. Al Sairafi highlighted that landmark tourism projects, including Souq Al Baraha, are an important addition to the Kingdom of Bahrain's tourism sector, offering integrated facilities and diverse experiences that enrich and diversify the tourism product.

She added that the project reflects the effective partnership between the public and private sector, enhancing Bahrain's position as a tourist destination and supporting economic



H.E. Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi and H.E. Dr. Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Noaimi with H.E. Abdulrahman Baddah Al Mutairi

“Souq Al Baraha showcases the Kingdom's commitment to highlighting its cultural identity by investing in its unique cultural and heritage assets through modern tourism projects.”

— H.E. DR. RAMZAN BIN ABDULLA AL NOAIMI, MINISTER OF INFORMATION

growth.

On his part, H.E. Al Noaimi noted that Souq Al Baraha showcases the Kingdom's commitment to

highlighting its cultural identity by investing in its unique cultural and heritage assets through modern tourism projects.



He noted that these projects promote national features and advances Bahrain's position as a leading cultural and tourist destination regionally and internationally.

H.E. Al Mutairi explored Souq Al Baraha's facilities and design, which reflect traditional Bahraini architectural aesthetics, while also offering a modern shopping experience that meets visitor needs.

The Kuwaiti Information and

“Landmark tourism projects, including Souq Al Baraha, are an important addition to the Kingdom of Bahrain's tourism sector, offering integrated facilities and diverse experiences that enrich and diversify the tourism product.”

— H.E. FATIMA BINT JAAFAR AL SAIRAFI, MINISTER OF TOURISM

Culture Minister underscored that Souq Al Baraha combines cultural heritage with commercial and entertainment activities, enhancing the visitor experience and highlighting the Kingdom's authentic national identity.

‘Muharraq Nights’ Festival visit



In the presence of His Excellency Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Minister of Information of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Abdulrahman Baddah Al Mutairi, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs of the State of Kuwait, attended the “Muharraq Nights” Festival. The festival is held in conjunction with the Kingdom of Bahrain's national celebrations and marks the 26th anniversary of the accession of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. During the visit, the Kuwaiti Minister was received by H.E. Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), alongside a number of officials. H.E. Dr. Al Nuaimi highlighted that the “Muharraq Nights” Festival, which stretches along the Pearl Trail.

Focus on gender equality and women empowerment

TDT | Manama

The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA)'s Equal Opportunities Committee held its fourth meeting of 2025, chaired by His Excellency Mohammed Ali Al Qaed, Chief Executive of the iGA.

The discussion was part of the iGA's ongoing efforts to embed the principle of equal opportunities and foster a supportive work environment that contributes to achieving gender balance.

Al Qaed commended the efforts of the committee members in adopting and launching initiatives and programs that



H.E. Mohammed Ali Al Qaed chairs the committee meeting

align with the government's directives, and the importance of these efforts in strengthening women's role in the various digital and technological programs and projects implemented by the iGA.

The Committee reviewed a number of agenda items, in-

cluding the final report on the governance framework within the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2025–2026).

They also discussed the results of the employee satisfaction survey prepared by the Committee.

Muharraq Council backs funding push for Arad mosque completion

● Construction hits 90% completion rate, but work stalled

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Muharraq Municipal Council has approved a set of service proposals, led by a plan to help finish the remaining works needed to open Mohammed bin Hameed Mosque in Arad and a move to address safety and access issues in Al Hidd.

Ahmed Al Moqahwi, a council member, said construction of the mosque in Block 241 was about 90 per cent complete, but work had stalled after the donor funding the build faced financial difficulties.

He said the council had written to the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs asking it to look at completing what is left so the mosque can open.

Kerb

The council also agreed to lower the kerb opposite Tareq Sweets shops in Al Hidd and to install a ‘No parking for trucks’ sign near a building in the area.



Muharraq Municipal Council meeting in progress



“Construction of the mosque in Block 241 was about 90 per cent complete, but work had stalled after the donor funding the build faced financial difficulties.”

— AHMED AL MOQAHWI

On Diyar Al Muharraq’s new marina, the council discussed the share to be set aside for fishermen in the Sixth Constituency.



The constituency’s representative, Fadhil Al Oud, said Ria Har-

“Ria Harbour needed electricity and water services to be extended, and without lighting, it currently amounted to a water basin and posed a risk to visitors at night.”

— FADHIL AL OUD

bour needed electricity and water services to be extended, adding

that without lighting it currently amounted to a water basin and posed a risk to visitors at night.

Al Oud said around 60 per cent of the fish traded in Bahrain’s markets comes from Ria Harbour, and called for work to address its condition and to give the harbour and its fishermen priority.

Separately, Al Moqahwi said the council had repeatedly asked to meet Ministry of Works representatives to obtain details and updates on the bridge linking Muharraq and Arad, but had received no reply despite correspondence over roughly seven years.

Donations and in-kind contributions pour in



Filipinos unite to share their blessings during the Simbang Gabi Mass

● Filipino groups, individuals offer support during Simbang Gabi

TDT | Manama

Filipino organizations and individuals came together in a spirit of faith and generosity during the fifth day of the Simbang Gabi Mass at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bahrain, offering their collective support to the Filipino Catholic Community.

The Filipino American Association of Bahrain, Travelers Tribe Masonic Club Bahrain, and the Filipino Writers Circle (FilWrite) presented their collective offertory during the Mass.

Their participation was in response to the invitation of Katolikong Pinoy sa Bahrain, which encouraged Filipino organizations to take part in the



annual Simbang Gabi.

Providence

Officiated by Rev. Fr. Anthony Almazan, OFM Cap, Spiritual Director of the Filipino Catholic Community at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the Mass emphasized faith, hope, and steadfast trust in God’s providence.

The contributions will aid the parish Christmas initiative named “Home Away from Home,” a special Christmas Day event organized by the Filipino Catholic Community. This program aims to provide joy, comfort, and assistance to overseas Filipino workers,

particularly domestic helpers, laborers, fishermen, and fellow kababayans who are temporarily residing at the Philippine Embassy shelter.

Bro. Ulysses Dela Cruz, the Coordinator of the Filipino Catholic Community, conveyed that donations or in-kind contributions are welcome.

Items

These may include non-perishable items such as rice, noodles, canned goods, coffee, and tea, along with essential supplies like toiletries, blankets, suitcases, and other appropriate gift items.



Assistant Undersecretary Human Resources Office and its affiliated directorates have been awarded the “Healthy Lifestyle Promoting Workplace” Certificate - Diamond Level, granted by the Ministry of Health, in recognition of their efforts to apply the highest international standards in occupational health and safety and to enhance quality of life in the workplace. This achievement reflects the administration’s commitment to promoting a sustainable health culture through programmes and initiatives that raise awareness and promote positive practices that improve public health.

Community partnership



The Capital Governorate Police Directorate welcomed several children from the Sanabel Orphan Care Association during a visit aimed at strengthening community partnerships and instilling humanitarian values. This initiative reflects the Ministry of Interior’s commitment to enhancing communication with civil society organisations and supporting impactful community initiatives. During the visit, the children presented flowers to the Directorate’s personnel as a token of appreciation for the Bahraini police’s security and humanitarian role and their ongoing efforts to serve the community and maintain security and stability.

Al Baraka Islamic Bank launches equal payment plan for flexible installment service for **credit card** holders

Transactions valued at BD 100 and above can be converted into installment plans

● **Pay over a period ranging from 3 months up to 24 months**

● **Service is accessible through Al Baraka Islamic Bank's online portal**

Manama

Al Baraka Islamic Bank, one of the leading Islamic banks in the Kingdom of Bahrain is pleased to announce the launch of a new innovative service that grants its credit cardholders greater flexibility and convenience in managing their purchases. The flexible installment purchase service, based on an equal payment plan scheme, allows customers to buy and pay later by converting eligible transactions into manageable installments within their current credit lim-

it, making it easier for them to plan and control their expenses. Under this new feature, all transactions valued at BD 100 and above, conducted locally, internationally, or online can



Al Baraka Islamic Bank is a leading Islamic bank in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Since its establishment in 1984, it has delivered outstanding results in operations and services for both individual and corporate clients.

be converted into installment plans. Customers can choose to pay their total purchase amount over a period ranging from 3 months up to 24 months, with the flexibility to select a tenor that best suits their financial needs. For tenors up to 6 months, as there are no additional fees for the installment service, which providing an attractive option for quick repayment. For tenors exceeding six months, a nominal profit rate will apply as per the Bank's prevailing credit card pricing schedule, while tenors of three and six months will remain free of any service or handling fees.

This service is easily accessible through Al Baraka Islamic Bank's online portal, enabling customers to convert their eligible transactions into installments at their convenience. Additionally, the new offering includes an early settlement option, allowing cardholders the flexibility to settle their installment plans ahead of schedule, thus providing greater control

over their finances.

Additionally, the service is available exclusively to eligible retail individual cardholders with active Al Baraka credit cards, and can be availed for transactions of BD 100 and above within 15 days of purchase.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Mazin Dhaif, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank, said, "At Al Baraka Islamic Bank, we are committed to enhancing our customers' banking experience by introducing innovative solutions that offer flexibility and convenience. Our new Equal Payment Plan service reflects our ongoing efforts to provide tailored financial products that meet the evolving needs of our clients."

He added, "This latest feature underscores the bank's dedication to delivering innovative, Shariah-compliant banking solutions that empower cus-

tomers to make smarter financial decisions to improve their quality of life."

This new service is available to all credit card holders, irrespective of their card type with no limitations. Interested customers may apply for Al Baraka Islamic Bank credit card and avail this service aside from many other services, features, and benefits.



Zain Bahrain in partnership with Ericsson introduce latest **5G solutions with Edge User Plane**

To Power Industry 4.0 and Accelerate Bahrain's Digital Transformation

● **Zain Bahrain expands its strategic partnership with Ericsson to introduce 5G solutions with edge user plane in the Kingdom**

● **The enhanced network will accelerate Bahrain's digital transformation and support the nation's Industry 4.0 ambitions**

● **The new service will enable innovations such as AI-powered predictive maintenance, autonomous systems, and real-time monitoring, helping organizations boost efficiency and performance**

Manama

Zain Bahrain, a leading telecom and technology innovator in the Kingdom, has announced an expanded strategic partnership with Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) to introduce the latest 5G solutions in Bahrain, specifically in this case, Ericsson's Local Packet Gateway solution with Edge User Plane technology. This milestone marks a significant

step toward enhancing the Kingdom's network capabilities, supporting Bahrain's vision for a vibrant and sustainable digital economy; enabling Industry 4.0 technologies, and establishing a robust framework to

Ammar Al Ketbi, Zain Bahrain Acting CEO

accelerate the next wave of industrial innovation nationwide.

The latest 5G solutions with Edge User Plane technology will deliver faster, smarter, secure traffic and more resilient connectivity, unlocking ultra-low latency and optimized performance across Zain Bahrain's network. This will empower businesses and government enti-

ties to accelerate their digital transformation and unlock new opportunities for innovation and growth. Zain Bahrain's new advanced service will enable its network to support Industry 4.0 technologies, transforming the way industries operate through AI-powered predictive maintenance, autonomous systems, and real-time monitoring. By leveraging these capabilities organizations can streamline complex processes, improve efficiency, and achieve operational excellence.

Petra Schirren President Gulf at Ericsson Europe, Middle East and Africa

CEO commented: "Our collaboration with Ericsson marks another important milestone in Zain Bahrain's journey to advance the Kingdom's digital ecosystem. By introducing latest 5G solutions with Edge User Plane capabilities, we are paving the way for a new era of intelligent connectivity that will empower enterprises and industries to innovate, transform, and thrive in the digital age."

Petra Schirren President Gulf at Ericsson Europe, Middle East and Africa, says: "Our partnership with Zain Bahrain reflects how the new solutions can drive meaningful transformation across industries. Through the deployment of Ericsson's Local Packet Gateway solution with Edge User Plane, we are enabling advanced use cases that require near-instant connectivity and robust network performance. This partnership highlights Ericsson's continued commitment to delivering cutting-edge network solutions that power the next generation of digital innovation."



China to impose duties of up to 42.7% on EU dairy

AFP | Beijing, China

China said yesterday would place temporary duties on "certain dairy products" imported from the European Union, marking the latest salvo in a trade spat that spans from food to electric vehicles.

EU slams duties as 'unjustified'

Brussels hit back yesterday at China slapping duties of up to 42.7 percent on some dairy products from the European Union, calling the move "unjustified".

The "duty deposits", which range from 21.9 percent to 42.7 percent, come into effect on Tuesday.

They hit a range of items including fresh and processed cheese, curd, blue cheese and some milk and cream, the com-

merce ministry in Beijing said in a statement.

Officials launched an anti-subsidy probe in August 2024 after receiving a request from the Dairy Association of China. The probe will conclude in February.

China's commerce ministry

said Monday that preliminary findings showed a link between EU subsidies and "substantial damage" to its domestic dairy industry.

The fees on EU dairy come a week after Beijing said it would impose anti-dumping levies

on EU pork imports for five years.

Those duties kicked in on December 17 and range from 4.9 percent to 19.8 percent -- down from temporary levies of 15.6 to 62.4 percent that had been in place since September.

Bahrain Islamic Bank announces collaboration with Mastercard

To introduce new commercial card products in the Kingdom

● Two new cards, corporate credit card and an SME debit card, will address the needs of corporates as well as small and medium enterprises

Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of Islamic financial solutions for simplifying money matters in the Kingdom of Bahrain, announced its collaboration with Mastercard to introduce innovative card products including BisB World Corporate Credit Card and BisB SME Debit Card.

By tapping into the technology company's global network, BisB Mastercard cardholders will gain access to an exclusive suite of benefits crafted to enrich every aspect of their banking experience. The cards are designed to streamline company expenses and offer advanced



The deal signing

tools for expense tracking and payment reconciliation. This empowers businesses to manage their finances with greater control and transparency.

For executives and business travellers, the BisB World

Corporate Credit Cards provide access to airport lounges, travel inconvenience coverage, corporate liability waivers, and travel risk management solutions, ensuring peace of mind on every journey. BisB World card-

holders will also enjoy Mastercard's Priceless experiences, along with exclusive discounts on hotel bookings, airline tickets, car rentals, and ride-hailing services.

On the SME debit card front,

scheduled to be launched in January 2026, customers will enjoy reductions on their business costs through Mastercard Easy Savings Specials, access to a business subscription marketplace with competitive pricing on recurring payments, as well as other smart digital solutions addressing SME needs such as digital issuance. All these offerings reflect BisB's commitment to delivering seamless, secure, and rewarding financial solutions that respond to the evolving needs of its commercial clients.

Ms. Fatema AlAlawi, Chief Executive Officer of BisB said, "Banking should be effortless, and our unwavering focus is on delivering intuitive solutions that enhance financial accessibility for everyone. As a market leader serving both Bahraini and non-Bahraini clientele, we are dedicated to developing innovative products that simplify transactions and offer convenience. This collaboration with Mastercard will unveil exciting new card options, offering BisB customers benefits like en-

hanced security, seamless transactions, and access to a global network of rewards and offers. At BisB, customer satisfaction is our top priority, and through this team up, our customers will enjoy an elevated shopping experience, enriched by the innovation that BisB and Mastercard bring together."

Mr. Saud Swar, country manager for Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Jordan and other Levant at Mastercard, said: "Our latest collaboration with BisB builds on our shared commitment to harnessing the power of innovation to create modern payment solutions with the customer at heart. As part of our joint efforts to adapt to the evolving expectations of businesses of all sizes, our new card proposition is tailored to their everyday requirements. We are delighted to support the bank in growing its SME and commercial segment."

BisB continues to pursue collaborations that offer its clients more dynamic and reliable financial solutions aligned with their lifestyles and business requirements.

BisB receives 'Best ESG and Sustainability Practices in Bahrain' award

World Business Outlook

Manama

Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB), the leading provider of innovative Islamic financial solutions for simplifying money matters in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has



been awarded the "Best ESG and Sustainability Practices in Bahrain" accolade by World Business Outlook, recognising the Bank's exceptional efforts in championing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles through its impactful "Jood" Volunteering Team initiatives throughout 2025.

Ameer Dairi, Chief Financial and Strategy Officer of BisB

This milestone underscores BisB's commitment to integrating ESG into its core business strategy, grounded in Islamic finance values and aligned with the Kingdom's national development goals. The Bank continues to adopt a forward-looking approach that balances innovation, governance, and community impact to build a future-ready and inclusive financial ecosystem.

Central to this recognition is the role of the Jood Volunteering Team, whose diverse and far-reaching initiatives have significantly advanced BisB's sustainability impact. On the environmental front, Jood has led a number of initiatives including coastal clean-ups, tree-planting drives, and awareness campaigns aimed at promoting environmental stewardship. Socially, the team has spearheaded numerous programmes benefiting underprivileged families, people of determination, children, youth, the elderly, and women.

Commenting on the occasion, Ameer Dairi, Chief Financial and Strategy Officer of BisB, stated, "As Bahrain advances toward the aspirations outlined in Vision 2030, we at BisB remain deeply committed to helping shape an inclusive financial landscape



where banking becomes a force for positive societal change. We are immensely proud of our Jood Volunteering Team and the transformative role they continue to play in the lives of countless Bahrainis. This award is a testament to their tireless efforts and the values that drive us as a Bank: to serve with purpose, to lead with integrity, and



to create lasting impact at every level of society."

The recognition from World Business Outlook reaffirms BisB's position as a leader in sustainability-driven banking and highlights the institution's evolving role in setting new benchmarks for ESG excellence in Bahrain and beyond.

News in brief

◆ Iran insisted yesterday

that its missile programme was defensive in nature and designed to dissuade attack, while adding the existence of its arsenal was not up for debate. Israel had presented Iran's ballistic missiles, along with its nuclear programme, as the two main threats it sought to neutralise during the 12-day war the foes fought in June. "Iran's missile programme was developed to defend Iran's territory, not for negotiation," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said at a weekly press conference. "Therefore, Iran's defense capabilities, designed to deter aggressors from any thought of attacking Iran, are not a matter that could be talked about." Iran's ballistic capabilities put Israel within striking distance, and after Israel's unprecedented attacks that sparked the war in June, Tehran responded with waves of missiles and drones launched at Israeli cities.



Iran says missile programme defensive, non-negotiable

◆ Jailed Malaysian ex-PM Najib loses bid for house arrest

Former Malaysian leader Najib Razak lost a bid to have his jail term changed to house arrest yesterday, a setback ahead of a separate verdict this week tied to the country's 1MDB scandal. Najib, 72, is serving a six-year jail term for corruption linked to the plunder of Malaysia's sovereign wealth fund 1MDB, which sparked probes in several countries. His lawyers had argued that the purported existence of an order by Malaysia's former king, called a "royal addendum", granted him permission to serve the rest of his current sentence at home. However, Judge Alice Loke Yee Ching disagreed, saying that the royal addendum was not a valid order. Therefore, "the court cannot issue an... order to direct a house arrest", Loke told the Kuala Lumpur High Court.

◆ The US Coast Guard was pursuing another allegedly sanctioned tanker on Sunday, a US official told AFP, as Washington ramps up its pressure campaign targeting Venezuela's vital oil sector. The "active pursuit" in the Caribbean Sea was happening a day after the Coast Guard seized its second vessel off Venezuela in two weeks. US President Donald Trump announced on December 16 a blockade of "sanctioned oil vessels" sailing to and from Venezuela, demanding the return of allegedly stolen US assets in the oil-rich South American country. He has also deployed a large navy armada in the Caribbean with a stated mission of combatting drug trafficking, but which Caracas says is a pressure campaign to oust President Nicolas Maduro. "The United States Coast Guard is in active pursuit of a sanctioned dark fleet vessel that is part of Venezuela's illegal sanctions evasion. It is flying a false flag and under a judicial seizure order," a US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said in a statement to AFP.

US in 'pursuit' of third oil tanker in Caribbean: official



SPOTLIGHT

CO2 soon to be buried under North Sea oil platform

AFP | Esbjerg, Denmark

In the North Sea where Denmark once drilled for oil, imported European carbon dioxide will soon be buried under the seabed in a carbon capture and storage (CCS) project nearing completion.



INEOS Energy's Nini platform, a depleted oil and gas field

CCS technology is one of the tools approved by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) to curb global warming, especially for reducing the CO2 footprint of industries like cement and steel that are difficult to decarbonise.

But the technology is complex and costly.

Led by British chemicals giant Ineos, the Greensand project 170 kilometres (105 miles) off the Danish coast consists of a deep, empty reservoir beneath a small, wind-swept oil platform in the North Sea.

In its first phase due to begin in the next few months, Greensand is slated to store 400,000 tonnes of CO2 per year.

It's "a very good opportunity to reverse the process: instead of extracting oil, we can now inject CO2 into the ground," Mads Gade, Ineos's head of European operations, told AFP.

Liquefied CO2 sourced mainly from biomass power plants will be shipped from Europe via the Esbjerg terminal in southwestern Denmark to the Nini platform above an

empty oil reservoir, into which it will be injected.

"The reason why the North Sea is seen as a vault for CO2 storage is because of the enormous amounts of data that we have collected through over 50 years of petroleum production," said CCS coordinator Ann Helen Hansen at the Norwegian Offshore Directorate (Sodir).

This area of the North Sea is teeming with depleted oil and gas fields like Nini, as well as deep rock basins.

According to Sodir, the Norwegian part of the North Sea alone theoretically has a geological storage capacity of around 70 billion tonnes (70 Gt) of CO2. On the British side, the figure is 78 Gt, according to the British government.

In Denmark, the geological institute has no overall data, but the Bifrost project, led by TotalEnergies, estimates it could store 335 million tonnes of CO2. By comparison, the European Union's greenhouse gas emissions amounted to about 3.2 Gt last year.

Israel demolishes residential building in east Jerusalem

Demolition of the building was based on a 2014 court order



Excavators demolish a building constructed without a permit in the Wadi Qaddum area near the Silwan neighbourhood of east Jerusalem

● Bulldozers began ripping into the structure early yesterday

● Activists accuse Israeli authorities of frequently designating areas in east Jerusalem as national parks or open spaces

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli bulldozers tore through a four-storey residential building in east Jerusalem yesterday, displacing scores of Palestinians in what activists said was the largest such demolition

in the area this year.

The building, located in the Silwan neighbourhood near the Old City, comprised a dozen apartments housing approximately 100 people, many of them women, children and elderly residents.

It was the latest in a series of buildings to be torn down as Israeli officials target what they describe as unauthorised structures in annexed east Jerusalem.

"The demolition is a tragedy for all residents," Eid Shawar, who lives in the building, told AFP. "They broke down the door while we were asleep and told us we could only change our clothes and take essential papers and documents," said the father of five.

With nowhere else to go, Shawar said his seven-member family would have to sleep in his car.

Three bulldozers began ripping into the structure early on Monday as residents looked on, their clothes and belongings scattered across nearby streets, an AFP journalist saw.

Israeli police cordoned off surrounding roads, with security forces deployed across the area and positioned on rooftops of

neighbouring houses.

Built on privately owned Palestinian land, the building had been slated for demolition for lacking a permit, activists said. Palestinians face severe obstacles in obtaining building permits due to Israel's restrictive planning policies, according to activists, an issue that has fuelled tensions in east Jerusalem and across the occupied West Bank for years.



Israel occupied east Jerusalem, including the Old City, in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, and swiftly annexed the area.

New Zealand says agreed free trade deal with India

● The deal, which comes into effect in the first half of next year

AFP | Wellington, New Zealand

New Zealand said yesterday it had agreed a wide-ranging free-trade deal with India that eliminates tariffs on 95 percent of the Pacific country's exports, but the government's coalition partner labelled it a bad agreement.

Trade and investment minister Todd McClay said the deal, which comes into effect in the first half of next year, gave unprecedented access to India's 1.4 billion consumers.

"This once-in-a-generation agreement creates opportunities New Zealand exporters have



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

never had in India," McClay said, adding that it "will deliver thousands of jobs and billions in additional exports".

The deal simplifies entry to

New Zealand for some Indian workers, including 1,667 temporary work visas each year for the information and communications technology sector, en-

gineering and some health services.

It also includes a working holiday scheme allowing up to 1,000 people aged 18-30, and allows Indian students to work for up to 20 hours a week.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office said he had spoken to New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon on Monday and the two agreed that the deal, signed in a "record time of nine months", would further deepen ties.

Both "leaders agree that the free-trade agreement would serve as a catalyst for greater trade, investment, innovation and shared opportunities between both countries", Modi's office said in a statement.

The agreement "would also open up new opportunities" for innovators, entrepreneurs and farmers, it added.

Under future Emperor Nikephoros II Phokas, Byzantine troops storm the city of Aleppo and recover the tattered tunic of John the Baptist during the Arab-Byzantine wars

King James II, the last Roman Catholic British monarch, flees to France from William of Orange



US General George Washington resigns his military commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Army to Congress

Vincent van Gogh cuts off part of his left ear with a razor after an argument with fellow painter Paul Gauguin and sends it to a female courtesan for safekeeping



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



An important moment for India-New Zealand relations, with a strong push to bilateral trade and investment! My friend PM Christopher Luxon and I had a very good conversation a short while ago following the conclusion of the landmark India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement.

@narendramodi

02



There is not a single power plant in Ukraine today that has not been damaged by Russian strikes. And every functioning Ukrainian energy facility, every operating part of our energy grid, is what thousands of our energy sector workers have been able to protect, restore, and build.

@ZelenskyyUa

03



Every day, the @UN helps people around the world realize their human rights: We deliver food, provide shelter, support education, defend the environment, support civic spaces, empower women & strive for peace. But we can't do it alone. This work depends on everyone, everywhere, taking a stand.

@antoniouterres

04



In Qatar, we are proud of the completion of the "Doha Historical Dictionary of the Arabic Language," whose rich content reinforces our people's adherence to their identity and their confident openness to the modern age and its tools.

@TamimBinHamad

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)



An investigator works at the car bomb site in southern Moscow.

Moscow car blast kills Russian general as Ukraine peace talks stall

Russian investigators suspects "Ukrainian special forces"

● Top negotiators from both Russia and Ukraine were in Miami for talks

● "Slow progress is being observed" in the talks, says Russia

● Zelensky has expressed scepticism over whether Russia really wants to end the war

AFP | Moscow, Russia

A car bomb killed a senior Russian general in southern Moscow yesterday morning as officials reported "slow progress" in talks with the United States on how to end the war in Ukraine.

Top negotiators from both

Russia and Ukraine were in Miami over the weekend for separate meetings with US officials seeking to break the deadlock on a deal to end almost four years of fighting, triggered by Moscow's all-out offensive on its neighbour in 2022.

Kyiv has not commented on the blast, the latest in a string of similar incidents, but Russian investigators said they suspected it was "linked" to "Ukrainian special forces".

The attack had the hallmarks of other assassinations of generals and pro-war figures that have either been claimed or are widely believed to have been orchestrated by Ukraine.

Lieutenant General Fanil Sarvarov, 56, head of the Russian General Staff's training department, was killed when the bomb, which had been placed under his parked car, detonated in a residential quarter of southern Moscow.

AFP reporters at the scene saw

a mangled white Kia SUV, its doors and back window blown out. The frame was twisted and charred from the blast.

The scene had been cordoned off by security forces, and investigators were sifting through the debris. Eyewitnesses reported a loud bang.

"We absolutely didn't expect it. We thought we were safe, and then this happens right next to us," local resident, Tatiana, 74, told AFP.

"The windows rattled, you could tell it was an explosion," said Grigory, 70, who also declined to give his surname.

"We need to treat it more calmly. It's the cost of war," he added.

Russia's Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, said it was "working through various lines of enquiry into the murder. One of them involves the possible organisation of the crime by Ukrainian special services."



Since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022, Kyiv has been blamed for several attacks targeting Russian military officials and pro-Kremlin figures in Russia and in Russian-occupied parts of Ukraine.

Sarvarov fought in the Russian army's campaigns in the North Caucasus, including Chechnya in the 1990s, according to his official biography on the defence ministry's website.

He had also been one of the figures overseeing Russian forces in Syria in 2015-16.

This handout aerial photo taken and released by the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service shows boats on the bed of the canal after a sinkhole developed along the Shropshire Union Canal, draining the water, in the Chemistry area of Whitchurch, Shropshire, central England.

When the water vanished



Paw patrol: UK govt vows to end puppy farming

London, United Kingdom

Britain prides itself on being a nation of dog lovers, but has a cruel practice the government wants to eradicate -- puppy farms.

The Labour administration on Sunday announced sweeping reforms designed to improve the welfare of the country's pets and other animals.

They include ending the so-called farming of puppies, where dogs are bred on a large-scale in cramped conditions, chiefly for profit.

"These inhumane practices often result in puppies suffering from long-term health issues," the environment, food and rural affairs ministry said in a statement.

According to the vet charity PDSA, in 2024 there were some 10.6 million pet dogs in the UK, which has a population of around 69 million.

Dog breeding is regulated -- anyone in England breeding and selling three or more litters of puppies in a year is required by law to have a licence.

Estimating the number of puppy farms in Britain is difficult because they are largely unlicensed and operate in the shadows, animal rights charities say.

The British Veterinary Association estimates that about one in four pet owners, or five million people, admit to doing no research before buying an animal.

Charities worry that means people are unwittingly buying man's best friend from puppy farms, where they say pups are often overbred and removed from their mother at too young an age.



Dogs in coats and caps parade during the Rescue Dogs of London Christmas jumper parade in central London

Cityscape Bahrain 2025 draws to a successful close

Records 11,618 attendees and Showcases 91 Major Projects



Edamah unveiled its new interactive investment platform

Bahrain Marina has reached 80% completion

Naseej Company and Al Moayyed Contracting Group signed agreements to implement 24 new housing units

Manama

Cityscape Bahrain 2025 has officially concluded at Exhibition World Bahrain, marking the close of a highly successful edition that brought together leading developers, investors, financial institutions, and government entities from across the Kingdom of Bahrain. The event attracted 11,618 attendees and showcased 91 major real estate developments, reflecting sustained confidence in the King-

dom's property market and its continued growth momentum.

Under the theme "Elevate Your Lifestyle," this year's edition generated significant engagement around investment-ready opportunities, infrastructure expansion, and the Kingdom's growing portfolio of community-focused and sustainable developments.

highlights

Among the key highlights, Edamah unveiled its new interactive investment platform, offering transparent, user-friendly access to active projects and development-ready land across its portfolio. Bahrain Marina confirmed that its flagship coastal development has reached 80% completion, with operations scheduled to begin in mid-2026, reinforcing its position as one of the Kingdom's most prominent upcoming waterfront destinations. Further advancing national housing initiatives, Naseej Company and Al Moayyed Contracting Group signed agreements to implement 24 new housing units in Salman City under the Government Land Development Rights

Program.

Diyar Al Muharraq advanced its development momentum through the signing of several strategic MoUs, including a partnership with Mazad, alongside additional agreements supporting project delivery. The developer also showcased key residential and investment offerings, including the Suhail and Al Wasem North Island developments and the newly completed Al Naseem project, attracting strong visitor interest and reinforcing market confidence.

Alongside this, Orchid Developers presented Orchid Bahrain Bay, a landmark 47-storey beachfront development redefining modern urban living, while Amwaj Beachfront highlighted its partnership with Meliá Hotels & Resorts, strengthening Bahrain's position as a premium mixed-use and hospitality destination and spotlighting Cityscape exclusive investment opportunities.

Esnad Group also showcased a selection of real estate projects reflecting its rapid expansion across Bahrain and the wider Middle East. The exhibition

included contributions from its UAE-based subsidiary, Merath, highlighting the group's focus on innovative development across the region.

In addition, several other developers announced new projects, partnerships, and upcoming launches during the exhibition, further reflecting the strong level of activity across Bahrain's real estate sector and a healthy pipeline of future developments.

'Architects of Tomorrow'

Cityscape Talks 2025 concluded after hosting 26 sessions featuring 54 regional and international experts, who explored evolving market trends, policy priorities, and innovation across the real estate landscape.

This year's edition also saw the 3rd edition of the 'Architects of Tomorrow' initiative, which brought together 10 students from four universities to present projects envisioning the Kingdom's future built environment. After detailed evaluation by the judging panel, three winning submissions were selected; first place went to Shatha Abdulla from the Royal Univer-

sity for Women, second place was awarded to Latifa Abdulla from the same university, while third place went jointly to Tia El Khatib and Maha Al Khudhairy from the Royal University for Women, alongside Zainab Alhalal from the University of Bahrain. Their forward-looking concepts showcased the exceptional potential of the Kingdom's emerging architectural talent.

Reflecting on the success of



With growing participation, strong investor activity, and key project milestones announced throughout the week, Cityscape Bahrain continues to reinforce its role as the Kingdom's leading platform for real estate innovation, investment, and collaboration.

this year's edition, Alex Heuff, Regional Director of Cityscape, commented: "Cityscape Bahrain continues to grow as a meeting place for ideas, investment, and collaboration. What stood out this year was the collective ambition across developers, policymakers, and investors to deliver long-term value for Bahrain. The level of engagement throughout the exhibition reinforces the Kingdom's position as a market with real momentum and a clear vision for the future of its real estate landscape."

He added, "This momentum has been strongly supported by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), which has played a significant role in creating an enabling regulatory environment by streamlining licensing procedures for developers. This facilitation has helped accelerate major projects across the Kingdom of Bahrain, clearly reflected in the high level of participation at this year's exhibition, and further underscored the strength and investment-readiness of Bahrain's real estate sector moving forward."

Italy fines Apple nearly 100 m euros over app privacy feature

Rome, Italy

Italy's competition authority said Monday it had fined the US tech giant Apple 98 million euros (\$115 million) for allegedly abusing its dominant position in the mobile app market.

The AGCM said in a statement that Apple had violated privacy regulations for third-party developers in a market where it "holds a super-dominant position through its App Store".

Apple said it would appeal the decision and defended its "strong privacy protections for our users".

But Italy's antitrust body said its investigation had established the "restrictive nature" of the "privacy rules imposed by Apple... on third-party developers of apps distributed through the



App Store".

The rules of Apple's App Tracking Transparency (ATT) "are imposed unilaterally and harm the interests of Apple's commercial partners", according to the AGCM statement.

French antitrust authorities earlier this year handed Apple a 150-million euro fine over its app tracking privacy feature.

Authorities elsewhere in Eu-

rope have also opened similar probes over ATT, which Apple promotes as a privacy safeguard.

The feature, introduced by Apple in 2021, requires apps to obtain user consent through a pop-up window before tracking their activity across other apps and websites.

If they decline, the app loses access to information on that user which enables ad targeting.

Critics have accused Apple of using the system to promote its own advertising services while restricting competitors.

Apple in its statement said its privacy rules "have been embraced by our customers and praised by privacy advocates and data protection authorities around the world".

Gold price hits record high of \$4,383.76 on US rate cut bets



Hong Kong, China

Gold prices shot to a record high on Monday as investors grow increasingly optimistic the US Federal Reserve will continue to cut interest rates through next year.

The precious metal hit a peak of \$4,383.76 in early trade

as a string of data last week pointing to further weakness in the US labour market and easing inflation gave the central bank room to ease monetary policy further.

Monday's gain pushed the commodity past its previous high of \$4,381.52 touched in October.

Third 'Avatar' film soars to top in N. American box office debut

Los Angeles, United States

"Avatar: Fire and Ash," the third installment in James Cameron's blockbuster sci-fi fantasy series, debuted at the North American box office with \$88 million in ticket sales in the weekend before Christmas, industry estimates showed Sunday.

"Fire and Ash" grossed \$345 million worldwide in its opening weekend, and is expected to do very well abroad, according to David A. Gross of Franchise Entertainment Research.

The "Avatar" films "connect everywhere around the world," Gross said, adding that the 20th Century movie -- like its predecessors -- would likely rev up on "outstanding word-of-mouth."

Bahrain and Kuwait Strengthen Strategic Media Partnerships



Bahrain's Minister of Information, H.E. Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, met with his Kuwaiti counterpart, H.E. Abdulrahman Baddah Al-Mutairi, to reaffirm the deep-rooted fraternal ties and historical cooperation between the two nations. Under the guidance of their respective leaderships, the ministers discussed enhancing bilateral media and cultural integration through the exchange of professional expertise and joint initiatives. The meeting focused on modernizing Gulf media coordination to keep pace with rapid digital transformations and global challenges. Minister Al-Mutairi also toured Bahrain's Ministry of Information complex, including the National Communication Center and the main News Center studio. He praised Bahrain's advanced media infrastructure and its commitment to fostering GCC unity. Both officials emphasized that these collaborative efforts are vital to serving the regional interests and shared aspirations of both kingdoms.



Diplomatic Delegation Explores Muharraq Nights Festival



Foreign Minister H.E. Dr. Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani, alongside heads of foreign missions accredited to Bahrain, toured the Muharraq Nights Festival to experience the Kingdom's rich cultural tapestry. The delegation, including Dean of the Diplomatic Corps H.E. Rami Saleh Wreikat Al Adwan, visited historical landmarks such as the Qaisariya Market and the Pearl Museum. Dr. Al Zayani praised the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities for their restoration efforts and professional organization, noting the festival's success in attracting GCC tourists. The ambassadors expressed admiration for the folk arts and heritage sites, which highlight Bahrain's ancient civilizational identity and the historic pearl industry. The visit underscored the importance of cultural diplomacy and the Kingdom's commitment to preserving its architectural legacy for residents and international visitors alike.

Bahrain Expatriate Sunil Thomas Ranni Releases Debut Christmas Carol Album “Sukrutha Jananam”



“Sukrutha Jananam,” the debut Christmas carol music album written by Bahrain-based expatriate Sunil Thomas Ranni, has been officially released. The melodic lead song, “Pulkkoottil Pirannoru Paithal,” is now available for audiences on YouTube. The digital launch took place during the Christmas celebrations held at the Indian Club. The album was officially released by Indian Club President Cassius Joseph Joy in the presence of Father Jacob Thomas Karakkal, Vicar of St. Mary's Indian Orthodox Cathedral. The event saw the participation of event coordinator Binoj Mathew, Indian Club officials, and several prominent figures from the social and cultural sectors. The track was composed and performed by Stanley Abraham Ranni, with video editing handled by Bobby Pulimootil.

Minister of Social Development Visits Pakistan Club Pavilion at “THIS IS BAHRAIN” Festival



In a significant gesture of bilateral friendship, His Excellency Usamah Bin Saleh Al-Alawi, Minister of Social Development, visited the Pakistan Club pavilion during the annual “THIS IS BAHRAIN” National Day festival. Held under the royal patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the festival serves as a premier platform celebrating the Kingdom's multicultural unity. During the visit, the Chairman of the Pakistan Club, M. Afzal Bhatti, presented a commemorative shield to the Minister. The presentation served as a token of appreciation and a symbolic gesture of the deep-rooted ties between the Pakistani community and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Royal Advisor Applauds Heritage Village Celebrations



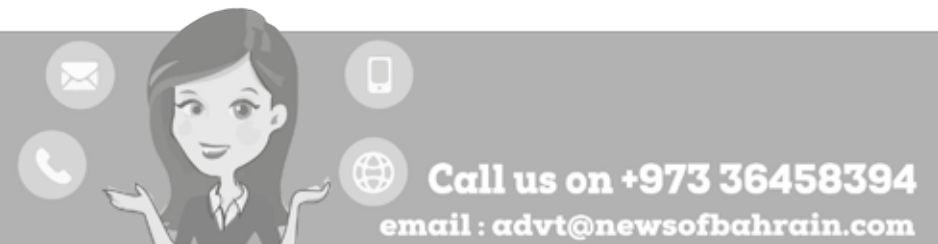
Professor Hala bint Mohammed Jaber Al-Ansari, Advisor to His Majesty the King for Cultural and Scientific Affairs, visited the Bahrain Holidays Festival at the Heritage Village. Organized by the Ministry of Information, the event marks the Kingdom's national holidays and the 26th anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's accession. During her visit, Professor Al-Ansari reviewed artistic displays documenting Bahrain's civil renaissance and traditional folk arts. She emphasized that such events fulfill His Majesty's vision to preserve national heritage and strengthen cultural identity. Commending the festival's professional organization, she noted its vital role in fostering community interaction and educating younger generations on Bahrain's history. The advisor concluded by praising the efforts to create a comprehensive national space that instills pride and belonging through the celebration of authentic Bahraini heritage.

Tubli Walkway Celebration Marks Bahrain's National Day



The Friends of Tubli Walkway hosted a vibrant community celebration on Tuesday, December 16, in honor of Bahrain's National Day. The event brought together families and residents for a ceremonial flag march symbolizing unity and respect for the Kingdom. Presided over by President Shams VP and inaugurated by social worker Najeeb Kadalayi, the morning featured a community breakfast, a cake-cutting ceremony, and various recreational games. Speakers at the formal session, moderated by Salim Thayyil, highlighted how such patriotic gatherings foster solidarity and friendship within the expatriate community. Treasurer Shabeer delivered the vote of thanks, marking the successful celebration as a memorable tribute to the host nation's heritage and harmony.

Classifieds



VACANCIES AVAILABLE

HIRA CAR CARE CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38970402 or sadathalameen@gmail.com

AQEEL AHMED SHAFI SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33321594 or IMAD-SHEIKH087@GMAIL.COM

SHIBA TRADING has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANT(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34366114 or HUSSAINJAFAR3922@GMAIL.COM

BEEKA MARKETING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MARKETING EXECUTIVE, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33682631 or AFSALARAMUL-LAN@GMAIL.COM

COURIERX W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38870666 or HAMAD@COURIERX.COM

IMLAQ ALSHAWRMA has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36699365 or BADERB77@HOTMAIL.COM

DHA Bakery W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34567895 or ABEERRAJPUTI@GMAIL.COM

Buildco WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39496994 or SHABUPARAKADAN@GMAIL.COM

DURRAT AL KHALEJ MARINE SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of PIPE-FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674316 or duratkhaalej@hotmail.com

SSMM DECORATION COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33988136 or SARMAADNISAR48@GMAIL.COM

SSMM DECORATION COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ELECTRICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33988136 or SARMAADNISAR48@GMAIL.COM

Dream World Construction Co. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 34111999 or sharef.works@gmail.com

NORDIC PALACE & SPA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of RECEPTIONIST, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17111101 or govt@nordicbh.com

COURIERX W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38870666 or HAMAD@COURIERX.COM

BLUE LAGOON INTERNATIONAL FOR FOODSTUFF TRADING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33469559 or admin@blulagoonbahrain.com

COURIERX W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38870666 or HAMAD@COURIERX.COM

COURIERX W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38870666 or HAMAD@COURIERX.COM

INTERLOCK MAINTENANCE CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17296175 or ramraj007@hotmail.com

ABDULHADI ALAFOO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17874756 or alafoo@batelco.com.bh

SAYYAR TRADING AGENCIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17290111 or OFFICE@SAYYAR.BH

PROTECTS SECURITY SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of SECURITY GUARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700211 or hrd@dreamgroup.bh

DURRAT AL KHALEJ MARINE SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674316 or duratkhaalej@hotmail.com

DURRAT AL KHALEJ MARINE SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANICAL HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17674316 or duratkhaalej@hotmail.com

RAZORS & SCISSORS HAIR SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER-HAIRDRESSER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34061993 or AL-EEMASGHAR@GMAIL.COM

KHUSHAB BAKER has a vacancy for the occupation of BREAD BAKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33891787 or ZAKIRAWAN1964@GMAIL.COM

FLAMINGO LAUNDRIES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39997774 or bills@alsaadon.com.bh

AREENA CONTRACTOR GROUP CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17245222 or HR@AREENAGROUP.COM

Stiller Agency for the Supply Workers w. l. l has a vacancy for the occupation of KITCHEN WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17717730 or rsuresh@alazzamgroup.com

GLORY GARB MARKETING SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17744983 or TWIN-KLELADIESBH654@GMAIL.COM

PAKISTAN STARS RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17233054 or DARALSHESHA@GMAIL.COM

MEGROCE HYPERMARKET W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34491381 or KHALIL_ASFOOR@OUTLOOK.SA

GHAZI FOR MARKETING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39270020 or QAW388311@GMAIL.COM

NAJEENA DOCUMENTS CLEARING has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33364604 or NAJEENARAF@GMAIL.COM

AWAL READY MIX CONCRETE COMPANY W.L.L - ARMCON has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700077 or m_jaffar@armcon.biz

VILLA ARABELLA RESTAURANT AND CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17692000 or Zainab.alkhudhur@gmail.com

Aqua Technology Transfer W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17233317 or aquatt.hr@gmail.com

AIRTH MATIC MAINTENANCE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 1755759 or ADMIN@NGCBH.COM

KANOO COPY WORLD has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39329993 or SALES@KANOOSTATIONERY.COM

MANAMA STEEL INDUSTRIES CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER(GAS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17500266 or Fadhel@manamasteel.com

YOUSIF AL-ZAYANI TRADING & CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of PLUMBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224381 or ZAYNICO@BATELCO.COM.BH

SOHAIL AHMED SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37516178 or SOHAILAHMED.B.A.H@GMAIL.COM

GULSHAN NISA UMMAT RASOOL W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER(DECOR), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33007451 or PARAGON-CITY88@GMAIL.COM

U N GLAM HAIR STUDIO has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38810003 or UN.GLAM@HOTMAIL.COM

BEN EID TOWERS CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact

17250078 or KEHF-2011@HOTMAIL.COM
REGAL CITY SUPERMARKET - BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36368180 or HJAMEEL400@GMIAL.COM

OM FASHION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77088490 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

OM FASHION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77088490 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

MY SIZE TAILORING has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39790473 or MURADN@BATELCO.COM.BH

DREAM & DRIFT SIMPLE COMMANDITE COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39911661 or ALI-ABUTHAKI@GMAIL.COM

ROYAL BAHRAIN HOSPITAL has a vacancy for the occupation of SPECIALISED DOCTOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17532010 or hussain.alali@royal-bhrrn.com

UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

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UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

OM SAQ SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE BOY / FARRASH, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33015010 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMED RADHI AHMED MOHAMED has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17000477 or ORLEANS.GR.BH@GMAIL.COM

SOLO CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CARPENTER-CONSTRUCTION-(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17711333 or hassan@emaar.bh

ATEYA METAL COATING WORKSHOP W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36540047 or ADMINFLUIDTECH@GMAIL.COM

MOHAMMED UMER FASHION DESIGN W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN(FABRICS), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33956025 or SHKIQBAL@HOTMAIL.COM

AL SHAFEI AUTO SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39900442 or ALIALSHAFIE@YAHOO.COM
HEALTH WELLNESS BY NISHA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66656707 or NUSHNISHA@GMAIL.COM

SHABAZ CLEANING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39570044 or MAILIK.SHAHAZSKT70@GMAIL.COM

FANTASTIC FIXERS REAL ESTATE CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALES AGENT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33368677 or GANESH.SHIKARL@GMAIL.COM

EMRAN FOOD DELIVERY has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37663626 or IMRANSALEH-BADSHAH901@GMAIL.COM

BUGALLON SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77088490 or INFO28TRAVEL@GMAIL.COM

LAILA MOHAMMED ALDOSSARY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33656333 or HGOOD8908@GMAIL.COM

OASIS RESTAURANT AND CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(VEGETABLES), suitably qualified

applicants can contact 35361898 or ABNOOR92@HOTMAIL.COM

LABBAIK CONTRACTING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33780786 or FZQ786@YAHOO.COM

JALIL KHAN PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66997220 or SAYACORP HOSPITALITY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLERK(HOTEL RECEPTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17170000 or kathrina.nisnisan@conradhotels.com

ANAGOL INTERIOR DECORATION COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34245978 or ARIZONA-SERVICES33@GMAIL.COM

VIBRANT SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17008217 or JALALEBRAHIM@GMAIL.COM

FM ELECTRONICS REPAIR has a vacancy for the occupation of TECHNICIAN(ELECTRONIC APPARATUS MAINTENANCE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36925109 or AMR20102@GMAIL.COM

SHOPNO CLEANING AND CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35475513 or MK1675886@GMAIL.COM

ABU KHALIL 786 FOR REAL ESTATE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37447677 or SMARTBOY620716@GMAIL.COM

ICG SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

ICG SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

ALSALWA MEAT FACTORY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17596656 or hr@alzaeembh.com

COURIERX W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38870666 or HAMAD@COURIERX.COM

SHOW BEAU CAFE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77999099 or Showbeau.cf@gmail.com

ZAHRAT AFGHAN BUKHARI RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34336752 or EHSANMASOOD500@GMAIL.COM

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WELDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

Mechanical Contracting & Services Company W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36937988 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

ICG SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

GULF AIR B.S.C. (C) has a vacancy for the occupation of CABIN CREW / FLIGHT STEWARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17337804 or recruitment@gulfair.com

ICG SERVICES CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SCAFFOLDER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17623723 or MCSC@MCSCWLL.COM

GULF AIR B.S.C. (C) has a vacancy for the occupation of CABIN CREW / FLIGHT STEWARD, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17337804 or recruitment@gulfair.com

CLEANCO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36699040 or MAJED@FAWAZALZAYANI.COM

ALMOAYYED CONTRACTING GROUP W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation

of AIR-CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17400407 or proffice@almoayyedcg.com

M A S A 360 COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34586998 or CO-DEARTONLINE@GMAIL.COM

NEW PERFECT SALON W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 32398849 or FORTUNEIMPEX14@GMAIL.COM

STAR GROUP COMPANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17300013 or ahmed@star-groupbh.com

SWAR SUPPLY MANPOWER has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17001271 or swar.supplymanpower@GMAIL.COM

AFRICAN GHANA CONSULTANCY AND SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38319938 or QUEENS_GATE@HOTMAIL.COM

CARLTON REAL ESTATE has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17292827 or accounts@carlton.com

FALAFEL SHABAN RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK(GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36114202 or ALKHAB-BAZBH@GMAIL.COM

SANAMINA INTERIOR DECORATION has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33902762 or FATIMAS-AYED0327@GMAIL.COM

URBASER BAHRAIN CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17534342 or sajlilnath@urbaser.com

HUSAIN JASIM SALEH BAHR / MARAMAH / 7054 has a vacancy for the occupation of SEAMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37743993 or MAS.ALMEHZA@GMAIL.COM

SEERAGAM RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CASHIER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17002166 or seeragam2025@gmail.com

EVER BUILD TRADING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of STORE LABOURER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700939 or JEHAN@EVER-BUILD.NET

URBASER BAHRAIN CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17534342 or sajlilnath@urbaser.com

AWAL STORAGE FOR READYMIX MATERIAL AND BLOCKS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PRODUCTION PLANNING CLERK, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17700077 or ANEED_M2@HOTMAIL.COM

MWASH LAUNDRY has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(LAUNDRY), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33508441 or HAMADMST5@GMAIL.COM

STAR TECHNICAL AND TRADING SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PIPE-FITTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17783780 or STARTECH@BATELCO.COM.BH

LULWA ABDULLA MOHAMED CARGO HANDLING has a vacancy for the occupation of HEAVY DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35306735 or LULWABH1480@GMAIL.COM

UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

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NEW DIMENSION CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 77999360 or FISHERMAN-SENSE@GMAIL.COM

W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33655204 or TAJAM-MULKHAN40@GMAIL.COM

UNIQUE FACILITY SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33306469 or CHIRIVELLAHARIKZ@GMAIL.COM

RED LINE MARKETING AND PROMOTION has a vacancy for the occupation of PROMOTER(COMMERCIAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33555166 or HGO-OD8908@GMAIL.COM

PARSIAN RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WAITER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17811511 or OTHMAN_AHMED61@HOTMAIL.COM

MERCURY CONTRACTING CENTRE has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17742858 or hussain@mercurygulf.com

ABSHER FOR CLEARING TRANSACTIONS has a vacancy for the occupation of SECRETARY, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38288805 or ABSHER.BH@GMAIL.COM

UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

BALKAR SINGH PACKAGING CO W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER/PACKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39698028 or MUSHTAQ29SP@GMAIL.COM

YASMINA FASHION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33325071 or SJALJ2421976@GMAIL.COM

BRICK & BLOCK CONSTRUCTION CO WLL has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33461361 or brickandblock-cobahrain@gmail.com

UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

OMSHIVA BUSINESS ROUTE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35563005 or JANUINTERIORSERVICEWLL@GMAIL.COM

UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

MAHIN SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DECORATOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37143551 or F34407337@GMAIL.COM

PAK DECORE POINT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of PAINTER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37300485 or TAHIRYUSDRAJAN@GMAIL.COM

ULTIMATE FINISH AUTO DETAILING has a vacancy for the occupation of CAR WASH-ER/CLEANER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36567475 or HOO_AD@HOTMAIL.COM

AMBALI CLEANING AND CONTRACTING has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39375444 or AMBALICLEANING@GMAIL.COM

UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

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UNISKILLS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CLEANER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17224578 or INFO@JANIKINGBAHRAIN.COM

SAT performance garage has a vacancy for the occupation of MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33367776 or SADADIRACING@GMAIL.COM

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(CONSTRUCTION), suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

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VACANCIES AVAILABLE CONTINUED

SHER REHMAN MAINTENANCE SERVICES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER(MAINTENANCEW).GENERAL, suitably qualified applicants can contact 35137133 or SHERMAINTENANCEBH@GMAIL.COM

ALHAMAD CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CO. W.L.L. has a vacancy for the occupation of MASON, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17226618 or ACKR007@GMAIL.COM

COURIERX W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38870666 or HAMAD@COURIERX.COM

BNP PARIBAS has a vacancy for the occupation of AUDITOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17866666 or MEA.RECRUITMENT@BNPPARIBAS.COM

ABU AMANI TRADING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33874079 or AG5938768@GMAIL.COM

TURK HEAVY TRANSPORT has a vacancy for the occupation of DIESEL MECHANIC, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39429987 or gro@turk.bh

JANAT ALBAHRAN SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33091033 or ABEERALMAHNA@GMAIL.COM

BLACK GULF CONSULTANY W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE WORKER HELPER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 37617271 or HAMMID777MP@GMAIL.COM

ABSHER PROPRTYE SERVICES has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33744481 or ABSHER.BH@GMAIL.COM

QUEBEC BUILDING CONSTRUCTION has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39755200 or Quebecgroup9@gmail.com

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Bahraini duo target knockout spots on final matchday

Muharraq host Esteghlal, Al Khaldiya face Arkadag in AFC Champions League 2

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s representatives Muharraq and Al Khaldiya will be in action tomorrow as the AFC Champions League Two group stage reaches its decisive final round, with both matches kicking off at 7 PM.

In Group A, Muharraq host Esteghlal FC (IRN) at Shaikh Ali Bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Stadium in Arad, knowing that a positive result will secure their place in the Round of 16. Nandinho’s side sit second on seven points, two ahead of Esteghlal, and will look to build on their resilience shown in their previous outing.

The Bahrain champions drew 2-2 away to Al Wasl FC on November 5, twice taking the lead before being pegged back late by the UAE side. That result kept Al Wasl top of the group but underlined Muharraq’s attacking threat and ability to compete



Elliot Simoes celebrates a goal for Muharraq in their last match



Al Khaldiya captain Sayed Dhiya Saeed during training session

under pressure — qualities they will hope to carry into this decisive home fixture.

In Group B, Al Khaldiya travel to face FK Arkadag (TKM) at Arkadag Stadium, with qualification still very much in their own hands. Al Khaldiya are second on six points in a tightly packed group and know that victory will guarantee progression to the knockout stage.

Al Khaldiya’s most recent match ended in a 0-0 home draw against PFC Andijon on November 5. Despite creating several scoring opportunities, they were kept at bay by solid defending and impressive goalkeeping. The stalemate, however, ensured the team remained firmly in contention heading into the final matchday. Their preparations were further shaped by a coaching change: on November 15, head coach Ali Ashoor stepped down, with Tunisian Lassaad Chabbi taking over shortly afterward.

Morocco coach ‘taking no risks’ with Hakimi fitness

AFP | Rabat

Morocco coach Walid Regragui said Sunday he would continue to be “very careful” with star man Achraf Hakimi at the Africa Cup of Nations as the Paris Saint-Germain full-back recovers from an ankle injury.

Regragui suggested on the eve of the tournament’s opening game against Comoros that Hakimi was fit, but in the end the Morocco captain played no part in Sunday’s 2-0 win in Rabat.

Hakimi has not played since suffering an ankle injury in action for PSG against Bayern Munich in the Champions League on November 4, and Manchester United’s Noussair Mazraoui started instead at right-back for Morocco against Comoros.

“We need Hakimi because he is the best player in Africa and one of the best in the world and no team can afford to be without their best player, but Mazraoui is a fantastic player,” Regragui said.

“He has different qualities to Achraf, although I think



Morocco's defender #02 Achraf Hakimi warms up before the match

Achraf would have helped us today.

“We didn’t want to take a risk with Achraf. We are being very careful with him so we will see how he is in the next 48 hours to see if he can start against Mali.

“We are convinced he will play during the AFCON and we are waiting patiently for him.”

Morocco beat Comoros in the tournament’s opening match thanks to second-half goals by Brahim Diaz -- set up by Mazraoui -- and Ayoub El Kaabi after Soufiane Rahimi had an early penalty saved.

Bapco Energies renews as title partner of 2026 Bahrain Championship



Angel Ayora in action
Manama

Bapco Energies, the integrated company leading the energy transition in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has signed a new agreement to remain as the Title Partner of the 2026 Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship on the DP World Tour.

The Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship will take place from 29 January to 1 February 2026 at the Royal Golf Club in Bahrain, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. Featuring a prize fund of \$2.75 million, the tournament follows the Dubai Invitational and the Hero Dubai Desert Classic - the first Rolex Series event of the season - as one of seven events on the DP World Tour’s International Swing.

The 2026 edition of the Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship will showcase the DP World Tour’s leading rookies, with newly-crowned Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year Mar-

tin Couvra confirmed to tee it up alongside fellow breakthrough talents Angel Ayora and Elvis Smylie.

Couvra, the second Frenchman in history to win the prestigious Rookie of the Year award, enjoyed a standout 2025 campaign that included victory at the Turkish Airlines Open and a further six top-ten finishes, culminating in a 19th-place finish on the Race to Dubai Rankings Delivered by DP World.

Joining him in Bahrain is 21-year-old Spaniard Ayora, who pushed Couvra all the way in the rookie standings. Meanwhile Australian Elvis Smylie will also feature after securing his maiden DP World Tour title earlier in the season and firmly establishing himself as another exciting young star on Tour. Together, the trio represent the next wave of global talent set to compete at this year’s event.

Bapco Energies became Title Partner of the tournament for the first time in 2025, moving up from presenting partner in



Elvis Smylie in action

2024. The partnership focuses on elevating the tournament experience for players, stakeholders, and spectators alike, establishing Bahrain’s premier international golf tournament as a world-class attraction. The tournament is also pioneering environmental initiatives focused on energy provision, including powering hospitality units and structures with solar energy and batteries.

Speaking about the announcement Mark Thomas, Group Chief Executive Officer of Bapco Energies, said: “We are pleased to renew our partnership with the DP World Tour for the 2026 Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship. This collaboration reflects our confidence in the tournament’s continued success and its ability to elevate Bahrain on the global sporting stage. We look forward to building on the momentum of 2025 and delivering another exceptional experience that brings our community together and reinforces Bapco Energies’

commitment to supporting national pride and international visibility.”

His Excellency Faris Mustafa Al Kooheji, Secretary General of Bahrain Olympic Committee, said: “Thanks to the drive of our visionary leaders and the support of Bapco Energies and the DP World Tour, the Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship is putting the Kingdom of Bahrain on the map as a world-class golfing destination. With leading professionals from more than 25 countries competing next month, the tournament will provide international exposure and support our drive to continue growing the game in the region.”

Tom Phillips, Director of Middle East at the DP World Tour, added: “The Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship is going from strength to strength, with a strong year-on-year increase in spectator numbers, a field that boasts several legends of the game, and a desire to bring environmentally sustainable best practice to event delivery.”

CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMED AFZAL MOHAMED HUSSAIN, S/O MOHAMED HUSAIN ALI MOHAMED holding an **Indian Passport No V6416990** Dated 02/02/2022 issued at **MANAMA** (place of issue) having permanent residence at 703, HILL PARK TOWER B-1, CO-OP HOUSING SOC. LTD JOHESHWARI WEST, MUMBAI PIN:400102, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA.... (full address in India as in the passport)

Presently residing at FLAT 22, BUILDING 665, ROAD 321, BLOCK 103, HIDD, BAHRAIN (full address in Bahrain) will henceforth be known as (Given name) **MOHAMED AFZAL** (Surname) **MOHD HUSSAIN** Objection(s), if any, may be forwarded to **Embassy of India**, P.O. Box 26106, Al Seef, **Kingdom of Bahrain**.

Five-wicket Duffy prompts West Indies collapse as New Zealand win series 2-0

Historic twin centuries from openers set the platform for a comprehensive New Zealand triumph

● **New Zealand win by 323 runs**

● **West Indies collapsed after strong start**

● **Conway and Latham set world records**

AFP | Mount Maunganui

New Zealand crushed West Indies by 323 runs after tea yesterday to win the third Test at Mount Maunganui and seal a 2-0 series victory, with Jacob Duffy's five-wicket haul proving crucial to the win.

The hosts set a target of 462 and bowled out the tourists for 138, wrapping up the innings in just four overs after tea following a dramatic collapse either side of lunch.

Duffy finished with 5-42, backed up by Ajaz Patel, who claimed 3-23, while opener Brandon King top-scored for West Indies with 67.

New Zealand's Devon Conway scored 227 and 100 in two innings, while captain Tom Latham scored 137 and 101 -- the first opening pair in first-class cricket history to score twin cen-



New Zealand's Tom Latham (L), Jacob Duffy and Kane Williamson (R) leave the field at the end of play

turies in the same match -- to help set up the Black Caps' win.

The series began with a draw in Christchurch, before New Zealand won the second Test in Wellington.

On a cracked surface offering uneven movement and bounce, seamer Duffy and spinner Patel posed constant danger to both

edges of the bat.

West Indies collapsed from 87-0 to 112-8 either side of lunch. The visitors had started the day 43-0, with Brandon King on 37 and John Campbell on two.

King dominated early, hitting a flurry of cuts and drives and scoring 53 of the teams first 59 runs.

Initially, New Zealand captain Latham's fields lacked aggression on a pitch that looked increasingly difficult to bat on, but that changed after the drinks break.

Duffy broke the opening stand at 87, King gloving a rising delivery to Glenn Phillips at gully for 67.



Devon Conway and Tom Latham became the first opening pair in first-class history to score twin centuries in the same match, while combining for a world-record 515 runs as an opening duo

Patel struck in the next over, removing Campbell for 16 after a rash attempt to slog down the ground. Phillips then took another good catch in the deep.

Patel claimed another soon after, first-innings centurion Kavem Hodge falling for a duck with Rachin Ravindra taking a catch at silly square leg.

Hodge's preparation before the match was hampered by a series of poor throwdowns dished out by a coaching assistant, with head coach Daren Sammy stepping in.

Duffy then dismissed Alick

Athanaze for two and Justin Greaves for nought in successive overs, leaving the West Indies reeling.

Duffy struck again two overs later, with Alick Athanaze edging to keeper Tom Blundell for 2, before removing Justin Greaves for nought with an edge to Daryl Mitchell at slip.

Duffy had Roston Chase caught off the gloves by Tom Latham at slip for five, capping a miserable series for the West Indies captain.

Chase scored just 42 runs in an average of seven in three matches, the second worst figures for a skipper dismissed six or more times in a Test series.

Patel claimed Shai Hope's wicket for three from 78 balls after a controversial lbw review. Having not played a shot, the ball was deemed to be hitting Hope's foot on the full and going on to hit the stumps.

Glenn Phillips then took his first wicket of the match, bowling a hobbled Kemar Roach for four, who is nursing a hamstring strain.

Ravindra was introduced in the final session and snared Anderson Phillip's wicket with an lbw, before Duffy wrapped up the innings bowling Jayden Seales.

Jesus could start for Arsenal in League Cup, says Arteta

AFP | London

Mikel Arteta has hinted that he is ready to hand Gabriel Jesus his first start in nearly a year in Arsenal's League Cup quarter-final against Crystal Palace on Tuesday.

The Premier League leaders host Oliver Glasner's side at the Emirates, desperate to end the club's six-year trophy drought.

Jesus scored a hat-trick in Arsenal's last-eight win against Palace last season before they fell to Newcastle in the semi-finals.

The Brazil international then spent 11 months on the sidelines after he ruptured the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee.

But, following three substitute appearances, Jesus could be unleashed from the start against Palace, with Arteta set to rotate



Gabriel Jesus is seen during a warm-up (file photo)

a side that faces six matches in 20 days.

Chelsea await the winners. Arteta said former Manchester City forward Jesus, 28, was

ready to start.

"You can see now, not only in games but every day in training how much he wants it so he's going to deserve a chance soon,"

he said.

"It has been a real intense journey. When he joined us he lifted the belief, the spirit and the energy of the team and he gave something very different to what we already had and was very impressive.

"Then he had some very bad injuries and that hasn't allowed him to have the consistency we need from a very important player.

"He is back and his fighting spirit, his desire to always prepare in the best way is unbelievable. The team is together now and we need to use it."

Jesus could take the place of Viktor Gyokeres, who, despite scoring from the penalty spot in Arsenal's 1-0 win at Everton on Saturday, has not found the back of the net from open play in his past six appearances.

Knicks' Brunson scores 47, Bulls edge Hawks epic

AFP | New York

Jalen Brunson scored a season-high 47 points as the New York Knicks toppled the Miami Heat 132-125 on Sunday.

Star point guard Brunson also managed eight assists and three rebounds, in his highest-scoring performance ever at the Knicks' Madison Square Garden home.

The in-form New York team's eighth win in nine games improves their record to 20-8 in the Eastern Conference, where they sit second behind the Detroit Pistons.

That hot streak includes the Knicks' NBA Cup final victory last week, which ended their 52-year trophy drought.

Kel'el Ware top scored for



New York Knicks' Jalen Brunson in action

Miami, with 28 points as well as 19 rebounds. The Heat have now lost seven of their last eight, and fall to 15-14.

Elsewhere, the Chicago Bulls edged the highest-scoring game of the NBA season so far, holding off a late rally in a tight clash against the Atlanta Hawks to prevail 152-150.

Man City players face Christmas weigh-in as Guardiola issues 'fatty' warning

AFP | London

Manchester City's players face a Christmas Day weigh-in to check they have not over-indulged over the festive period -- with Pep Guardiola warning they will be dropped if they have piled on the pounds.

City enjoyed a comfortable 3-0 win over Premier League strugglers West Ham on Saturday to keep the pressure on leaders Arsenal.

But Guardiola, who has won six league titles during his spell at the Etihad, is famously demanding, revealing his men had



Pep Guardiola

been weighed before their short

break.

"Every player makes a weight," said the City boss. "They come back on the 25th and I will be there controlling how many kilos come up, (to see if) they come fatty."

"The moment they arrive after three days I want to see how they come back. They can eat but I want to control them."

The Spaniard said players who returned to the club overweight would not play against Forest on December 27.

"Imagine one player and now he's perfect but he will arrive with three kilos more. He will

(stay) in Manchester," he said. "He will not travel to Nottingham Forest."

Guardiola said it was important his men relaxed during a packed calendar as he heads to Barcelona for a brief rest.

"The schedule is so tight and the players have to forget," he said. "The more they arrive in the right moment (the better). The moment of the game they will be fresh in the legs."

"The players have to go with the families and forget football. It's good. For them to see the manager every day -- that's so tough."

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High-stakes drag racing roars into Sakhir

Bahrain Drag Racing Championship returns to BIC strip for plenty of high-intensity battles



Manama



Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), ‘The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East’, hosts this week the second round of the 2025/2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship in Sakhir.

The region’s biggest and most competitive drag racing series returns with plenty of high-intensity action along BIC’s quarter-mile drag strip from today to Friday.

The meeting follows a thrilling season-opener held last

month, which attracted nearly 200 competitors from Bahrain and across the region.

The top drag racing teams and drivers will once again be going head-to-head along BIC’s world-class quarter-mile drag strip – part of the NHRA Worldwide Network of the U.S.-based National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

The championship, which is sanctioned by the NHRA, is being organised and run by BIC in cooperation with the Bahrain Motor Federation, the Bahrain Drag Racing Commission, and

the Bahrain Motorcycle Commission.

The competing drag racers will be battling in their respective competition categories to crown the champions at the end of the campaign, each of whom will take home a prestigious ‘Wally Trophy’, awarded only to title winners of NHRA events worldwide. The ‘Wally’ is drag racing’s most prestigious accolade. Named after NHRA founder Wally Parks, it has been handed out since the 1969 NHRA season in the US.

This week’s events get under-

way with just a single night of Test and Tune today from 6pm to 12midnight. Qualifying will then be held on Wednesday, which will set the elimination ladders for the races on Thursday and Friday. Action on all those days is scheduled to be held from 4pm onwards.

Fans looking to attend the round can watch the excitement unfold on the strip from the Start Line Grandstand or from BIC’s Beyon Grandstand. Tickets for the Start Line Grandstand are BD5 apiece, while tickets for the Beyon Grandstand for Test and

Tune are BD2 each, and for qualifying and race days are BD3 per person.

Tickets can be purchased online at bahraingp.com, by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or at the gate.

There are 13 classes in this season’s Bahrain Drag Racing Championship. They include the Index 10.0, Index 9.0, Index 8.5, Outlaw 6, Index 7.5, Pro 29.5 V8, Comp 4.5, Outlaw 4, and Pro Mod for cars; and Street Fight 9.5, Index 8.5, Pro Street, and Outlaw for motorbikes.

The 2025/2026 calendar of

the Bahrain Drag Racing Championship features five rounds. Following this week’s events, rounds three and four will take place on back-to-back weekends from 6 to 9 January and 13 to 16 January next year, while the grand finale is set for 3 to 6 March.

For more information on the 2025/2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship or other events and experiences at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit’s official social media channels.

Sitra face Al Qadisiya in Gulf club clash

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s sole representatives in this year’s AGCFF Gulf Club Champions League, Sitra, face Al Qadisiya today at Mohammed Al Hamad Stadium in Kuwait.

The two sides met in match-day 3, with Sitra held to a 0-0 draw against 10-man Al Qadisiya, despite creating several chances. The stalemate highlighted Sitra’s difficulty in converting opportunities, but keeps the Bahrainis in contention as they aim for their first win of the tournament.

After earlier draws against Zakho (0-0) and a 1-4 defeat to Al Ain in Round 1, Sitra will aim to make a statement and climb the standings, while Al Qadisiya look to avenge their previous stalemate.

Sitra’s head coach Isa Al Saadoun has called up a 22-man squad for the game: Ahmed Sanad, Ali Nasser, Ali Al Asfour, Jasim Khudhair (GK), Yusuf Habib (GK), Abbas Ahmed (GK),



Sitra squad departs for Kuwait ahead of Al Qadisiya clash

Ahmed Al Hedi, Abdulwasea Al Matari, Othman Iso, Othman Al Hajj, Ibrahim Jamal, Mohammed Akram, Juda Aguir, Maicon Douglas, Carlos Cavafe,

Mohammed Hussain, Kennyd de Lima, Rayan Khalid, Yassine Al Chamakhi, Vincent Emmanuel, Ramzi Abdallah, Karl Namnganda.

Kick-off is at 8PM local time, with Bahrainis hoping for a result to boost their Gulf Club Champions League campaign.

Liverpool fear Isak has broken leg: reports



Liverpool forward Alexander Isak is helped from the pitch after suffering an injury

AFP | London

Liverpool are awaiting scan results they fear will confirm record signing Alexander Isak has suffered a broken leg after he was injured in their win against Tottenham, reports said Yesterday.

The Sweden forward was hurt in the act of scoring the opening goal in Saturday’s 2-1 victory in London after a sliding challenge from Spurs defender Micky van der Ven.

Isak, 26, who had come on as a second-half substitute, was unable to celebrate with his teammates and left the pitch in considerable distress.

Immediately after the game Liverpool boss Arne Slot admitted the injury was “not a good thing”.

“If a player doesn’t even try to come back, that is usually not a good thing but I cannot say anything more than that,” he said.

“That is just gut feeling and nothing medical... let’s not be too negative yet. We don’t know yet. Let’s hope he is back with us soon.”

The Athletic and Sky Sports reported Yesterday that Liverpool fear Isak has broken his leg, which would mean a lengthy period on the sidelines.

Japan’s Minamino injures ACL six months out from World Cup

AFP | London

Monaco’s Japanese attacking midfielder Takumi Minamino has suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his left knee, the Ligue 1 club

announced on Monday, casting serious doubts over his ability to take part in the 2026 World Cup.

The former Liverpool player was injured during Monaco’s 2-1 win in their French Cup tie against Auxerre on Sunday.

The 30-year-old was stretched from the field of play with his face in his hands.

Minamino, who has 26 goals in 73 caps for the Samurai Blue, is one of the key men in coach Hajime Moriyasu’s side.

Japan have been drawn in World Cup Group F alongside the Netherlands, Tunisia and a European play-off winner to be determined between Poland, Sweden, Ukraine and Albania.